

ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING A PROTECTIVE GRASS COVER

A dense, tough sod is necessary to protect a waterway and other critical areas by erosion.

After a waterway or critical area has been properly designed and shaped, establish a grass cover as quickly as possible. Do Not Delay- Any delay increases the likelihood of damage from runoff.

1. Prepare the soil, Grass seed needs a firm but friable seedbed. Ordinary farm machinery can be used. If desired, apply manure and work it into the soil.
2. An application of fertilizer is necessary to get grass started quickly. Apply a minimum of 13 pounds of 12-12-12 per 1000 sq. ft. Incorporate it into the soil at time of seedbed preparation.
3. Seed the following seeding mixture of grasses. Place the seed at the proper depth - $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch deep is best and never over one inch deep.
Per 1000 square ft.;

_____ lbs. of _____
_____ lbs. of _____
_____ lbs. of _____
_____ lbs. of _____
_____ lbs. of _____

4. A mulch of hay or straw will give protection from erosion damage before the grasses become established. Also soil moisture will be conserved which will give better seeding establishment. Apply 100 lbs. (2-3 bales) per 1000 sq.ft. Spread it evenly and anchor it by using mulch netting. Mulches which are not anchored tend to float away during periods of runoff and may cause problems further downstream.

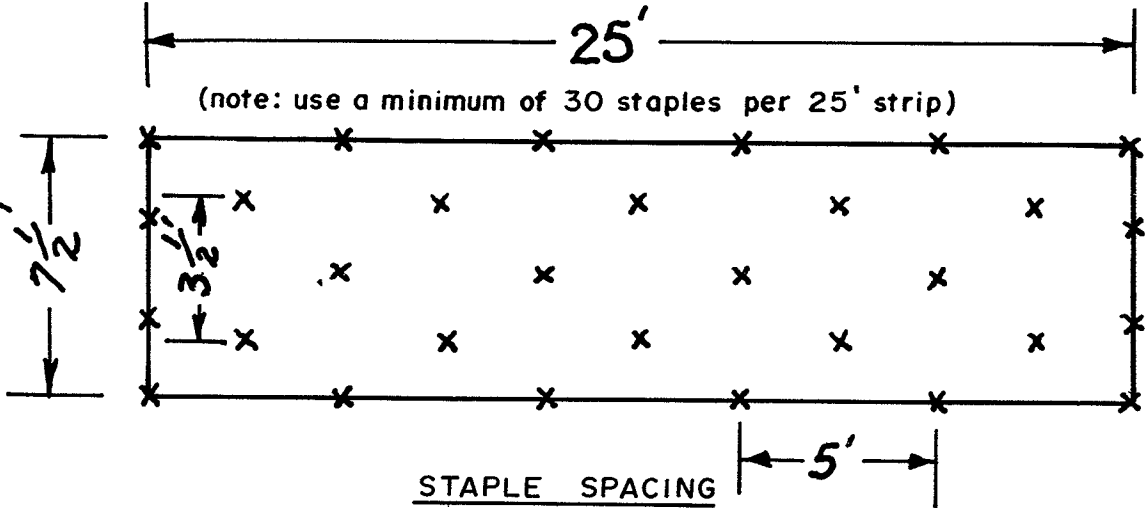
To maintain the grass cover:

1. **Top dress** with manure or fertilizer high in nitrogen to maintain a heavy sod cover.
2. Avoid using the waterway or critical area as a road. Never drive in it when the soil is wet.
3. Use care when crossing with farm implements. Lift all tillage implements from the soil and cross at right angles to the waterway. **Tillage operations parallel with the waterway cause a soil build-up** at the waterway edge which keeps water from moving into the waterway. This may cause gullies to form alongside the intended water course.
4. Repair damage to the waterway or critical area promptly. Never place rocks in a waterway.

INSTALLATION OF MULCH NETTING

Waterways: Position roll of netting at the center of waterway & Unroll the netting in direction of water flow. When more than one strip of netting is used, overlap the strips 4 inches (minimum) with the upslope roll on top and staple edges every 1 to 2 feet. Staple strips as illustrated below.

Steep Slopes and Critical Areas: Unroll netting from top of slope overlapping 4 inches at edges with upslope strip on top. Staple overlapping edges every 1-2 feet, otherwise staple as instructed below.



Pound staples flush with ground surface using a wooden or rubber mallet.

Staple top end first, starting in center and working to outside edges.

For best results, apply half of mulch underneath netting and the other half on top.

TOTAL AREA TO BE PROTECTED _____ Square Feet

SEEDING AND MULCHING OF WATERWAYS AND
CRITICAL AREAS USING MULCH NETTING

MICHIGAN ENGINEERING STANDARD DRAWING	
APPROVED BY <i>Rev. Belcher</i>	DATE 01/09/84
DRAWING NO. 50-N-0700	SHEET 1 OF 1

Rev-6/84

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE	
Designed _____	Date _____
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Checked _____	Sheet _____ of _____
Drawing No. _____	